

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 4, 2003, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 5, and 7 through 66 are currently pending. Claims 1-8 have been canceled. Claims 9, and 21 through 58 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention, and have been canceled. Claims 1 through 5, 7 and 8 stand rejected. Claims 10 through 20, and 59 through 66 are allowed. In view of the arguments made hereinafter, the applicant contends that Claims 10-20 and 59-66 are in condition for allowance and the same is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant notes the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement herein on May 6, 2003 and notes that no copy of the PTO-1449 was returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the information cited on the PTO-1449 be made of record herein.

Preliminary Amendment

Applicant's undersigned attorney notes the filing herein of a Preliminary Amendment on April 17, 2001, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should the Preliminary Amendment have failed for some reason to have been entered in the Office file, Applicant's undersigned attorney will be happy to have a true copy thereof hand-delivered to the Examiner.

Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 through 5, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kirlin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,213) (Office Action, at page 2). In order to expedite prosecution of the present application and without waiving the right to prosecute the rejected claims in a continuation application, claims 1-5, 7, and 8 have been cancelled. In view of the foregoing, the Section 103 rejection to claims 1-5, 7, and 8 are moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments, and further in view of the arguments made, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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